



16 SEP 2025 - 30 NOV 2025

An open call for fashion designers
who dare to innovate, challenge,
and reshape the future of fashion.
— with Ephea®



ephea®

ephea.bio

What

The Call

“Grow with Ephea®” is **an open call** for recently graduated **fashion designers** and **emerging fashion brands** who aim to redefine fashion systems, — fusing avant-garde and futuristic aesthetics with a **thoroughly sustainable vision**.

It’s a call for **conscious creativity**: an invitation to challenge the status quo challenge the status quo and champion responsible material innovation as **a creative advantage** — a powerful tool to imagine bold new languages, forms, and narratives in fashion.

The Concept

We’re looking for a project that is **both visionary and viable**: a garment, accessory, or mini collection that reflects fashion’s stylistic and sustainable evolution — with **elegance, depth, and a forward-looking spirit**.

At the core of this challenge is Ephea® Willow — an innovative, biofabricated material that deserves to be interpreted with boldness and respect.

Your project must **explore and enhance the uniqueness of Ephea Willow, transforming its distinctive qualities into aesthetic, cultural, and functional value**.

We seek designers who can engage in **a true dialogue with the material** — elevating it through an innovative, and conscious design language. Those who dare to **explore, challenge, and create with purpose**.

Ephea® Willow is not just a material — it’s a manifesto for the future of luxury.

This is your opportunity to tell its story with style, boldness and awareness.

Design without compromise.
Create with purpose.

Why

At the crossroads of Nature, fashion, science and creativity, Ephea® was born from a powerful conviction: the future of fashion must not only look beautiful — it **must be beautiful**, in every sense.

That's why we're launching an **open call** to grant access to Ephea. We believe in **empowering a new generation of designers to create with purpose** — not compromise. This era embraces sustainability as a source of inspiration, not limitation. With Ephea, we offer more than a biofabricated material: we offer a **canvas for change**.

“Grow with Ephea” is a creative call

— a movement for visionary minds.

A space where your boldest ideas meet a material designed for the future.

A chance to redefine luxury — not as excess, but as harmony, intention, and lasting impact.

This isn't just a call to design.

It's **an invitation to grow** —

your vision, our material,

a shared journey toward something greater.

Project

Expected Output

Applicants are invited to **submit a design proposal** resulting in a **garment, accessory, or mini collection** that showcases the visual and material potential of Ephea® Willow.

The selected designer **will independently produce a prototype**, supported by our team in optimizing the design to ensure effective functionality.

Each project should **include a custom color proposal** (Pantone/NCS) that enhances Ephea's natural aesthetic and aligns with the concept.

The **final submission must follow all format and content guidelines provided.**

What We Offer

The selected project will receive:

- A supply of Ephea® Willow in the proposed custom color (Pantone/NCS), with access to tones from the existing palette
- Technical support throughout prototype development, including best practices and handling guidelines
- Visibility across Ephea's official channels and inclusion in promotional content
- Official presentation of the final piece during Milan Design Week, as part of a dedicated event

Project Timeline

- Proposal submission deadline:
November 30, 2025 – 11:59 PM (CET)
- Selection period:
December 2025
- Announcement of selected project:
January 7, 2026
- Prototype development & delivery deadline:
By April 1, 2026
- Official presentation:
Milan Design Week – April 21-26, 2026

About Ephea

A NEW MATERIAL FOR A NEW WORLD

Ephea® is both our brand and the name of our materials.

Inspired by hyphae—the branching cells of **mycelium** that reach toward one another in a silent dance.

Ephea is born from connection, grown into form, a **category-shaping material family**, driven by a single question
— what does evolution feel like?

Our bio-fabricated materials blend the potential of living systems with the timeless power of craft's traditions.

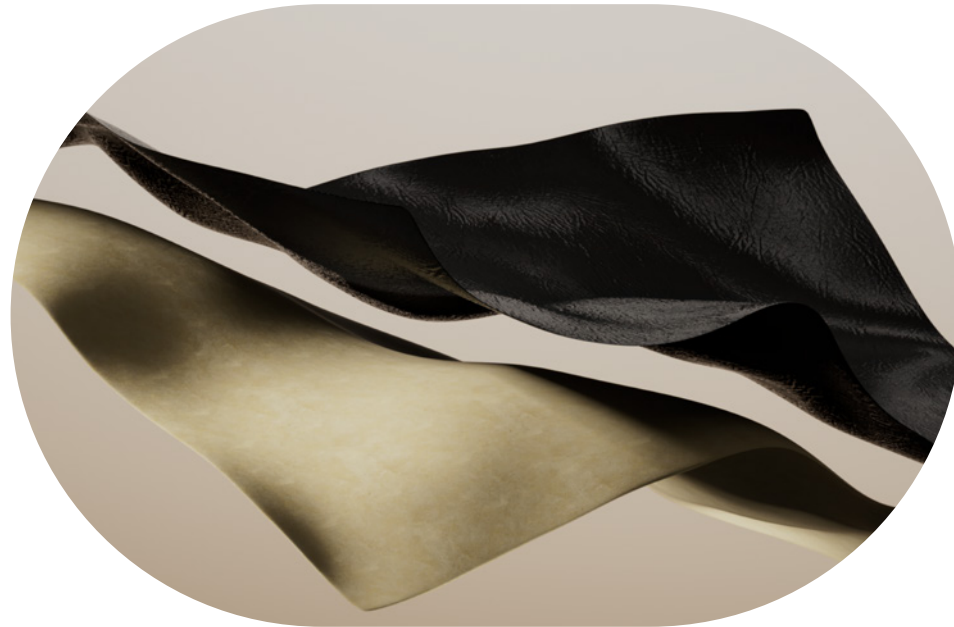
A new material for a new world.
Built to last, yet light in its presence.

**Conscious.
Transparent.
Visionary.**

It's what happens when **design dares to care**, when touch and aesthetics are led by the soul.

ephea





PURPOSE

Ephea® exists to blend living systems and tradition
to unlock the next era of materials

MISSION

To achieve our ambition we must unleash creativity
with innovative materials that combine environmental integrity,
performance, and desirability.

VISION

Our desired future is to become the global hallmark
for superior bio fabricated materials

Ephea is a category-shaping material family,
driven by a single question:

WHAT DOES MATERIAL EVOLUTION FEEL LIKE?

Our bio-fabricated materials
blend **the potential of living systems**
with the **timeless power of craft's traditions.**





Grown from a perpetual resource

Ephea's technology is grounded in a **sybiotic partnership with fungal microorganisms**, harnessing mycelium—*their vegetative structure*—as a key agent to bind and transform various types of residual and low-value substrates. Through this process, these undervalued inputs are converted into fully functional, high-value materials and products.

Mycelium — the living body of fungi

Mycelium is the ideal partner in enabling a shift from an extractive, exploitative paradigm to a **regenerative model**, rooted in the language of **bio-fabrication**.

Ephea biofabrication process^(*):
HOW IS IT GROWN?

(*) International patent family published as WO2020/115690

FROM HYPHAE TO EPHEA

— the natural alchemy of becoming

Ephea is born **from a living process, guided by Nature's intelligence** and refined through industrial precision.

It starts with locally sourced, low-value organic biomass — carefully selected to nourish fungal growth.

A specific fungal strain is chosen for its morphology and ability to efficiently metabolise this feedstock. Cultivated under sterile conditions, the strain ensures material purity and consistency.

1. FEEDSTOCK SELECTION



2. FUNGAL STRAIN SELECTION



ENGINEERED BY NATURE

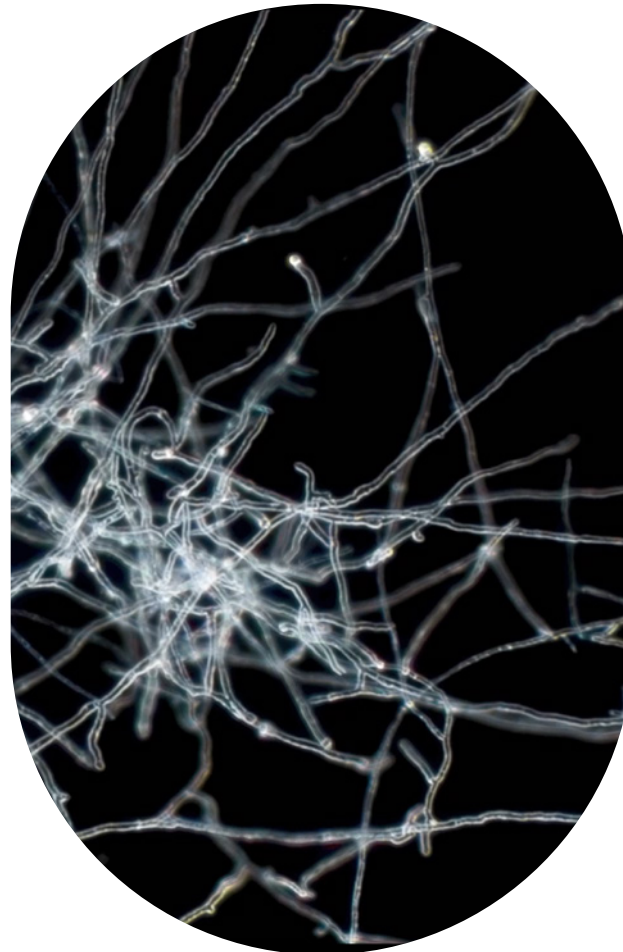
— Ephea is not made - it is grown

3. MYCELIUM GROWTH

The mycelium grows by **colonising the substrate**, forming a dense network of hyphae in response to tightly controlled environmental conditions. This colonised matrix is then transferred into **custom bioreactors, where it continues growing in a semi-liquid state**, taking shape and structure from the mold and parameters.

Once fully matured, the mycelium is harvested, stabilised, and dried into a uniform mat — a pure, high-performance material made entirely from mycelium.

This is Ephea:
a new-generation, bio-fabricated material
— rooted in nature, realised through
technology.



4. GROWING IN MOULDS AT SEMI-LIQUID STATE



FROM RAW TO FINISHED

— crafted with tanneries

5. SEMI-FINISHED PRODUCTS



Ephea raw mats undergo a **refined wet process**: gently washed, then infused with natural tannins, resins, oils, and pigments. Inspired by traditional vegetable tanning, this method transforms the material into a **versatile, semi-finished sheet**.

But this is not tanning. Unlike animal hides, Ephea doesn't require preservation — *it's naturally stable*. The process serves to enhance: improving body, softness, density, durability, and depth.

Each treatment reveals new textures and tones, **highlighting the raw beauty of mycelium** shaped by botanical chemistry — a subtle alchemy that gives voice to the forest in feel and form.

6. TANNING



ENHANCING EPHEA

**Finishing is not the end —
it's where the story begins**

Finishing is where Ephea finds its voice — its look, feel, and strength. Skilled hands and precise choices give the material texture, depth, and character.

Each finish serves a purpose: enhancing appearance, improving structure, or refining performance.

Ephea is designed to adapt. It supports **a wide range of post-processing techniques**: lamination, laser cutting, edge painting, stitching, taping, and reinforcement.

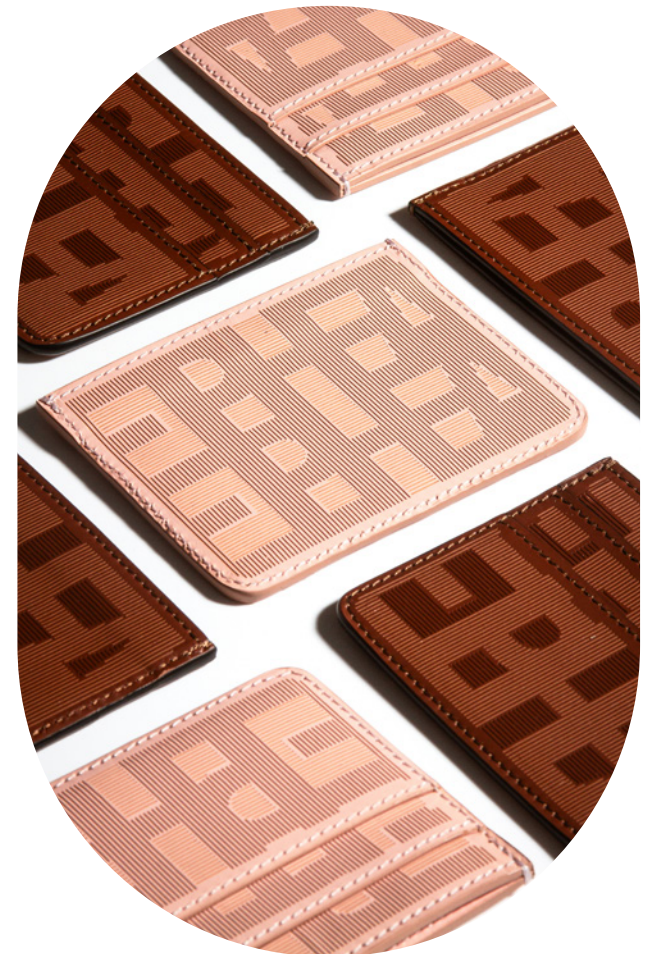
It also welcomes decorative treatments like embroidery, embossing, engraving, screen printing, and more.

From structure to surface detail — Ephea becomes your canvas.

7. FINISHED MATERIAL MATS




8. MANUFACTURING



LCA

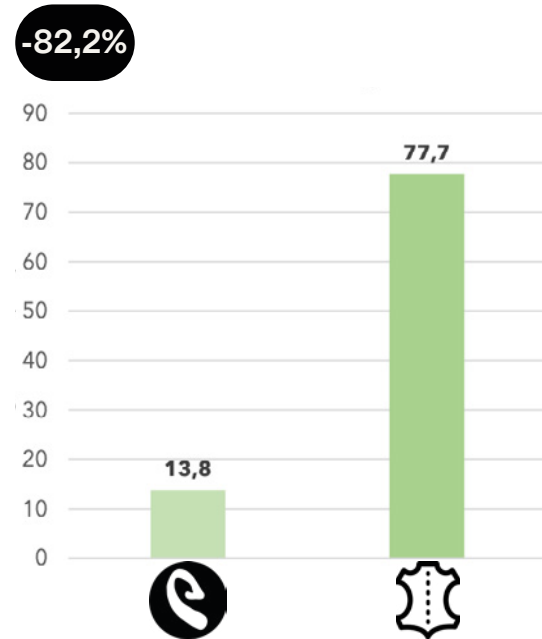
Life Cycle Assessment

finished Ephea 

finished Bovine Leather 

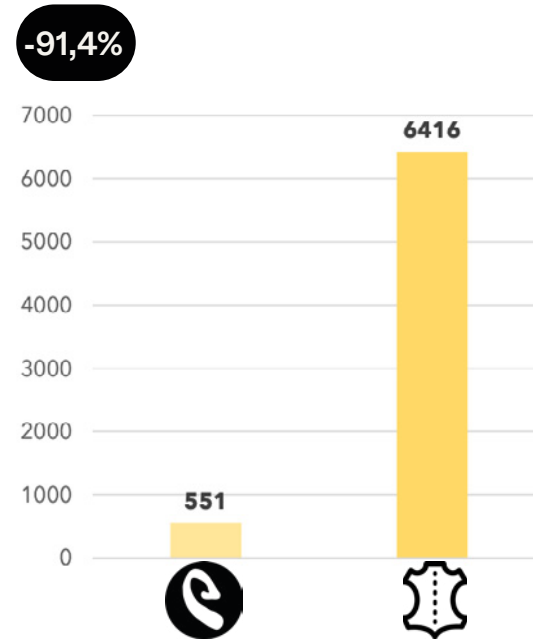
Climate Change

kg CO2 eq./sqm



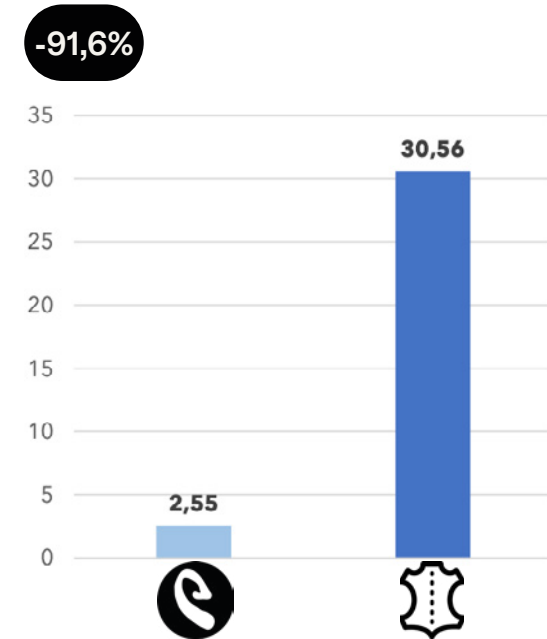
Land Use

points/sqm



Water Use

m3 deprivation/sqm



The study is based on the Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) methodology, an internationally standardized method conducted in accordance with the standards:

- UNI EN ISO 14040 (2021) Environmental Management, Life Cycle Assessment, Principles and Framework.
- UNI EN ISO 14044 (2021) Life Cycle Assessment, Requirements and Guidelines.
- UNI EN ISO 14025 (2010) Environmental Labels and Declarations - Type III Environmental Declarations Principles and Procedures.
- Product Category Rules (PCR) FINISHED BOVINE LEATHER- The International EPD® System (only for some indications).

APPROACH TO COMPARISON

The comparisons has been conducted between 1 m² of finished Ephea and 1 m² of tanned leather. The selection of the benchmark for the comparison is based on the results of the analysis using the EF 3.1 method: the database process with the lowest impact in terms of GWP (Global Warming Potential) has been used as the reference.

Database entries selected as benchmark:

Tanned leather → Leather, cattle, wet-white metal-free tanned {GLO} | technology mix | production mix, at tannery | m² | LCI result.

ephea WILLOW

Ephea® Willow is the range characterised by the most **fluid finish**, providing Ephea with a **lightness** reminiscent of the **gently swaying** branches of a weeping willow. Its unique texture - **harmoniously irregular** and **kindly wrinkled** - reveals the natural pattern of the mycelium network, with subtle veining that echoes the streaks found on the willow trees' leaves. An elegant materials expression celebrating the **authentic beauty** of nature in all its grace and simplicity.



ephea
WILLOW



ephea
WILLOW



colour palette



OBSIDIAN

TERRA

KHAKI

POPPY

SAFFRON

CURCUMA

obsidian

More than just a color,
as deep as the night,
as ancient as the earth.
it's the very embodiment
of mystery, power, and timeless beauty.
A black that pulls you in,
wraps you in its embrace,
solid, unyielding, pure.

Obsidian is the essence of the void,
yet within it, infinite depth and strengths.
A primal force, silent yet commanding,
a quiet authority that speaks in stillness.

It is Ephea® — unapologetically raw,
eternally elegant, in its purest, most powerful form.





Terra

“Terra” means earth, land, ground — the very foundation of all we know.

Terra — the color of roots, of life cradled in the earth.
Warm, comforting, and steady,
it wraps you in nature’s embrace.

A brown that speaks of strength through softness,
the raw, material beauty of the land beneath us.

Terra is Ephea® in its most integral tone —
earthy, nurturing, and quietly enduring.





khaki

Khaki is dust, dry earth caked beneath your nails, the color of worn roads and long silences. It comes from khāk—Persian for soil. Not green, not brown, but something in between: lived-in, low-voiced, unshaken. It's the shade after the sun, the hush after the riot. A color that doesn't shout, but stays.



Saffron

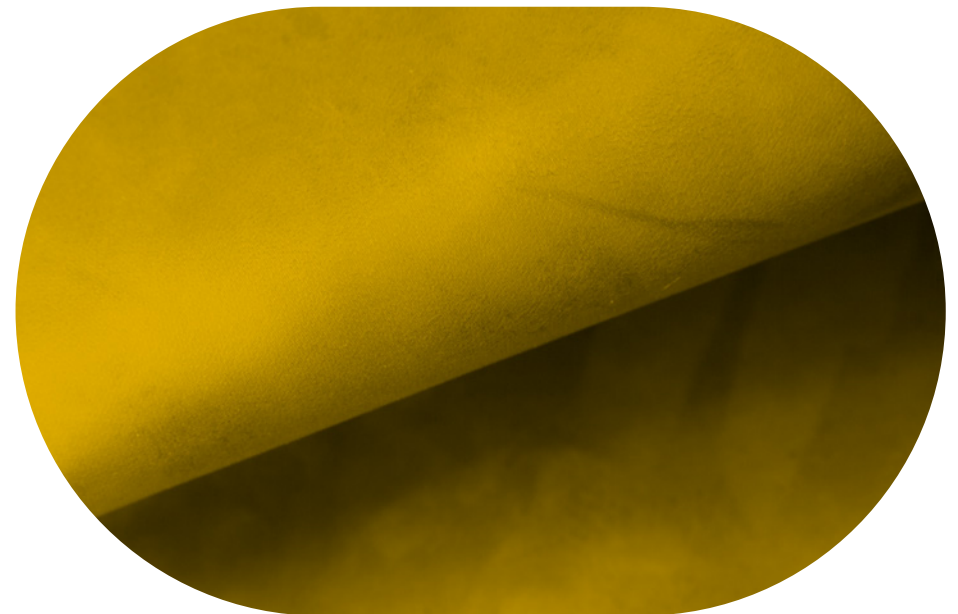


Inspired by the rare and vibrant spice, Saffron is warmth transformed into light.

A golden yellow that steps beyond earthy tones – **bright, intense, and full of energy**. It carries a sense of elevation, like sunlight diffused through fine fabric.

Saffron brings vitality and clarity, with a presence that's both radiant and refined.

Saffron – luminous, spirited, uplifting.



Poppy

A red that doesn't shout
– moving through senses on the down-low.
Velvet heat.
Bold whisper.
It draws you in, then lingers.
Lush, magnetic, a little wild.
Eccentric, yes – but never cold.
Pulsing presence.
This is Poppy
– unapologetically alive, deeply felt.



Curcuma

Dry fire, living root. Earth dense with sun and breath.
Raw, intense, natural. It carries the taste of origins and the strengths of now.
Healing radiation, pulsing to the beat of joy. It is Ephea® – warm, wild, caring



The **soul** of matter
The art of **imperfection**

FUKINSEI

is the beauty in imperfection –
the power of asymmetry,
the grace of irregularity.
It celebrates the raw,
natural flow of life,
where nothing is perfect,
yet everything feels whole.



THE MATTER OF CHANGE



Born from urgency.
From the realization that beauty
—if not rooted in what is right—
is no longer enough.

Ephea® is not just a new class of materials.
It is a statement.

A radical act of love for the planet.

A choice shaped by the future we refuse
to wait for.

Crafted from bold science and unwavering
values, Ephea is ruthless with excess, and
gentle with life.

It does not exploit.

It does not strip.

It does not deceive.

It is responsibility made beautiful.

It is ethics, made tangible.

A new material for a new world.

Drawn from Nature, but never draining her.

Built to last, but light in its presence.

Conscious. Transparent. Visionary.

It's what happens when design dares to care.

When aesthetics are led by soul.

Ephea is our rejection of compromise.
Because the luxury of tomorrow
will be born of radical choices
— not surface, not spectacle.
It is a bridge between what is,
and what must be.

It speaks for the voiceless.

It stands with the Earth,
with the creatures who share it,
with those who believe

every living thing holds meaning.

With Ephea, we keep moving forward
—never back—
toward a kind of luxury
that doesn't ask permission
to change the world.

Because the future isn't something to
wait for.

It's something we shape.

With courage.

With conscience.

With Ephea.



DOWNLOADABLE RESOURCES

- Project Submission Guidelines
- Application Form
- Ephea® Willow Presentation
- Manufacturing Handbook



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